

Readings for Young Men.

Under this head we propose to insert, from time to time, extracts from a London book, which we trust will prove profitable reading for the young business men of this country.]

KEEP YOUR PROMISE.

In no way, perhaps, can a young man destroy his business character more effectually than by obtaining the reputation of one who breaks his promises. The mercantile world, in placing under its ban the individual who suffers his note to be protested, is less unjust than is popularly supposed.

Instances of hardship we are willing to concede; do occasionally arise under the operation of this rule; but they are less frequent than is generally believed, and not more cruel than in similar exceptional cases. Nine men out of ten who fall, owe their insolvency either to having traded beyond their means—to a wanton management of their affairs—or to criminal speculations—that is, they have undertaken more than they could perform, and this while knowing at the time of the promise that there was great doubt whether they could meet their engagements. Perhaps, indeed, they had no deliberate intention of violating their promise; but they either were more ignorant than they should have been of their ability to perform, or they trusted too confidently to the chances of the future, or they took heavier risks subsequently than was consistent with their liabilities.

The innocent, therefore, suffer far more by this species of mercantile proscription. On the other hand, the rule is absolutely necessary to the commercial world, for without it, payments could scarcely ever be depended on, and financial distress would frequently be alarmingly increased. Strict business integrity, in this particular, depends much on the general character. A person who pays little regard to slight promises, usually is somewhat careless of greater ones also. Deceits of this kind, like flaws in machinery, never lessen, but always grow worse, until finally, under the strain of a powerful temptation, they often break down a man's career for ever.

The most punctual men in keeping a trivial engagement, we have always found to be the easiest in their business transactions. Washington was a memorable example of particularity in small things as well as great, and his strict probity in the latter was unquestionably the result, in a considerable degree, of his fidelity in the former.

In our experience also, the men who never kept an engagement to the moment—the men who were proverbially always "slighted time," have been, mostly, those who have failed subsequently in business. We have learned, too, to be cautious of those who are over-ready to promise. It is the individual who carefully considers before he makes a pledge, who can be most surely depended on to keep it. A multiplicity of promises necessarily prevents the prompter from observing them all; for one conflicts with the other, and disables even the best intentioned. A disregard of promises, finally, is like a fungus, which imperceptibly spreads over the whole character, until the moral perceptions are perverted, and the man actually comes to believe he does no wrong, even in breaking faith with his nearest friends.

Sunday Reading.

THE SAMARITAN.—As a general matter, Indeed, I always felt myself under obligation to observe that a proper observance of the Christian Sabbath, and the more grateful do I feel toward those who take pains to impress a sense of this importance on the community.

The Lord's day is the day on which the Gospel is preached; it is the day of public worship throughout the Christian world. And, although we live in a trading age and in a reading community, yet the preaching of the Gospel is the form in which human agency has been and still is most efficaciously employed for the spiritual improvement of men. That the poor had the Gospel preached to them was an evidence of his mission which the Author of Christianity himself proclaimed. And to the public worship of the Deity, and the preaching of the Gospel, the observance of the Sabbath is obviously essential.—John Quincy Adams.

The longer I live the more highly do I estimate the importance of a proper observance of the Christian Sabbath, and the more grateful do I feel toward those who take pains to impress a sense of this importance on the community.

The Lord's day is the day on which the Sabbath day to keep it holy"—a command which was subsequently renewed and reinforced by the injunction of the Savior of mankind. The cases in Scripture in which the commandment was modified by the Savior, are those in which he was charged with violating it in his own person; but when thus measured, he replied, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." The importance of the right observance of the Sabbath cannot be controverted. So far as propagating opinions in favor of the sacred observance of the day, I feel it to be my duty to give all the facilities of my soul to that subject.—John Quincy Adams.

CAN'T LEAVE THE STORE.—The Day-
ton Journal publishes the following as having occurred in that city:

Little Mary was discussing the great hereafter with her mamma, when this dialogue ensued:

Little Mary—"Mamma, will you go to Heaven when you die?"

Mamma—"Yes, I hope so, my child."

Mary—"Well, mamma, I hope I'll go, too, and you'll be lonesome."

Mamma—"Oh, I hope your papa will go, too."

Mary—"Oh, no, papa can't go; he can't leave the store."

Mamma thought she had a good excuse for paper as very often, when asked to accompany her to prayer meetings, his reply is:

"Can't leave the store."

NO SILENT PARTNERS.—The Congressional has some pertinent words for those undecided ones who wish to enjoy the hopes of a Christian life without having a share in its toils and sacrifices:

A minister in Brooklyn was recently called upon by a business man, who said—

"I come, sir, to inquire if Jesus Christ will take me as a silent partner?"

"Why do you ask?" said the minister.

"Because I wish to be a follower of Him and do not wish any body to know it," said the man.

The reply was, "Christ takes no silent partners!" The firm must be Jesus Christ & Co., and the names of the Co., though they may occupy a subordinate place, must all be written out on the sign-board.

Reader, are you trying to be a secret Christian? Jesus Christ takes no silent partners!

SUNDAY SCHOOL.—One of the most promising signs of prosperity of the church in the future is to be found in the increasing interest manifested in the work of Sunday Schools. Though there may still be many both in the ministry and in the laity who hardly appreciate the true position of the Sunday School as an important element in the life of the Church; yet, as attention is every year becoming more and more drawn to the subject, the number of such is gradually diminishing. As part of the Church, the Sunday School has claims which cannot be disregarded without incurring the guilt of criminal neglect. It has been too much the custom in former years to leave it to take care of itself. It thrives, well; if not, it was a matter of little consequence. Now we are glad to notice a growing disposition towards making these schools as prosperous and as successful as possible. There seems to be general inquiry for the best appliances that can be found for the accomplishment of such a result.—*Methodist.*

At a school in Chicago recently, the inspector asked the children if they could give any text of the scripture which forbad a man having two wives. One of the children quoted in reply the text: "No man can serve two masters."

TO CONTRACTORS.—*For the month of June, 1867.*—*Advertiser, No. 1, John H. Moore, Jr., 207 State Street, New York.*—*Will be received by the committee up to 11 P.M., JUNE 10th.*

Plan and specification for a new building, to be erected on the site of the old, GALE Building, 100 Broadway, New York.

CROQUET, its Principles and Rules.

Several new points explained.

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